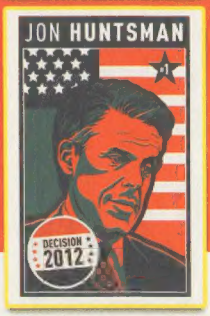
COMIC SHOP NEWS



COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Decision 2012: Comics' First Straw Poll

We may be more than a year away from the next Presidential election, but the political season has already begun—straw polls, debates, fund-raisers, the whole works. And this time around, the politics are making their way into comic shops, thanks to Boom Studios' Decision 2012 campaign.

Boom describes Decision 2012 as "the comic book industry's first straw poll, with biographical comic books for all the top candidates in the 2012 Presidential race. The decision is in the readers' hands; it's up to them and their orders to see who wins! The print runs for each book will be announced this November—and the candidate with the highest print wins!" If a candidate fail to garner at least 1500 "votes" (orders), his/her comic will not be published.

"The ***Decision 2012*** line of comics details the history and political lives of the candidates for the 2012 Presidential Election, giving non-partisan background on *President Barack Obama* and such presidential hopefuls as *Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney,* and *Rick Santorum.*

"The ***Decision 2012*** line of comic books has something for everyone," Boom Studios' Marketing and Sales Director *Chip Mosher* said. "For those political junkies who love a good horse race, we have comic book's first straw poll. For those voters and our young soon-to-be-voters, we have some great non-partisan biographical comics on all the major candidates — announced and waiting to be announced — in the presidential 2012 race. And finally, for the comic book collector we have a fantastic once-in-a-lifetime collectible. The ***Decision 2012*** comic line and comic book's first straw poll is a great way to spotlight the upcoming 2012 election and get people excited about voting!"

Mosher explained what inspired Boom to launch their own political straw poll a full year before the election. "We've always wanted to do comics that are more topical and timely," Mosher said. "We saw an opportunity with this year's Presidential election to do a series of comics early in the election cycle that would be educational and fun. The idea of a straw poll using comics is not something anyone has done before, so that's exciting too!"

In addition to the announced Republican candidates, Boom is also including *Sarah Palin* in their list (Palin has not thus far announced her candidacy). Why include Palin—and why not also include a Democratic potential candidate like *Hillary Clinton*, whom some are encouraging to run for President next year? "We couldn't *not* do Governor Palin," Mosher said. "She's such a looming shadow over the Republican candidates. Also, she's making all the moves that one would make if one were running. She's also included in most of the other straw polls, so it was a no-brainer. Secretary of State Clinton is still in President Obama's cabinet and not making any moves towards running. The chatter about that seems to be journalist-driven and not candidate-driven."

Mosher stressed that Boom is making every effort to ensure that the books were neutral and fair to each candidate. "It would certainly be shooting ourselves in the foot if these books were something the fans of each candidate didn't like! So we are making sure that if you like candidate X and get that comic, you'll like the comic of that candidate."

Will the books be ready to go once the results of the straw poll are in? "Yes sir!" Mosher said. "All the comics are being produced as we speak!"

Since there is only one Democratic candidate included in the straw poll and nine Republicans, the odds strongly favor Obama getting the most "votes." To balance that, Mosher said that "we're going to declare an overall winner of the entire straw poll and a Republican candidate winner."

Any chance that the individual comics will be collected in trade paperback prior to the 2012 election? "We don't have any plans right now," Mosher said, "but we have been discussing how best to do this." He also explained that, if a compilation is assembled *and* a candidate doesn't get sufficient orders/votes for his comic to go to press, it still might be included in a possible collected edition.

Look for the ***Decision 2012*** comics in November.

Marvel's X-Sanction Agenda

For most of 2011, big things have been occurring in the pages of Marvel's Avengers and X-Men titles. Now Marvel has revealed that the next big thing will involve both the Avengers and the X-Men. Its title is ***Avengers: X-Sanction,*** although it was originally teased as ***Cable Reborn...*** and as the title and cover image reveals, the Avengers, the X-Men, and Cable will be the focus of this limited series.

"***X-Sanction*** is sort of the starting gun or the opening flare" for events coming up throughout the Marvel Universe," Marvel editor and senior vice-president of publishing *Tom Brevoort* said.

"Ed and I were looking for the next big thing, and I think a lot of folks who know my work know I have an enormous affection for Cable—not just his role in the X-Men universe but his role in the Marvel Universe proper." *Jeph Loeb* said. "I always saw Cable as the Captain America of the X-Men universe."

A central theme of Cable's return is his concern for the future of his daughter Hope. So how does it all relate to the Avengers? "I don't want to say too much," Loeb said, adding that he would reveal "how Cable survived ***Messiah Complex*** and ***Second Coming***. If there had been even the slightest hint that the Avengers had something to do with Hope's future, he would do something to them," Loeb said.

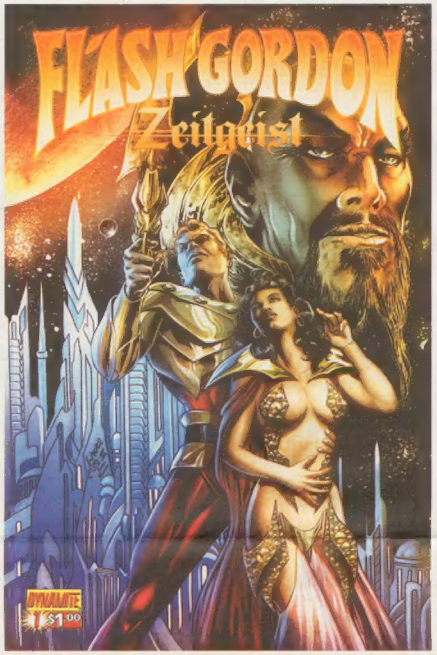
According to Brevoort, the series will bring Cable into conflict with characters with whom he is largely unfamiliar. "Cable's role as a father out to protect his daughter by any means necessary gives his character a weight and heft you can relate to on a very human level."

While the story is very action-oriented, Loeb stressed that Cable's characterization would play a crucial role in the series. "This is a story that has a beginning, middle and end, and a definite arc for who Cable is," Loeb said. "But you *are* talking about a character who is very capable as a soldier, a strategist, and doesn't play by the same rules the other Marvel heroes do."

Loeb explained that Hope's situation would be linked to big things happening in the Marvel Universe in 2012. "We get to light the fuse," Loeb said, "but it's a *long* fuse to the big bang."

Loeb pointed out that there is a cyclical nature to Cable's role. "The sacrifice that Scott made to give up Nathan in the beginning, because he knew the virus was going to kill him, has defined him. In a similar way, Cable took Hope into the future to protect her," Loeb said.

Avengers: X-Sanction #1 is scheduled for December release.



Flash Facts

Three weeks ago, *CSN* told you about Dynamite's major ***Flash Gordon*** launch, slated for November premiere. Now we have much more information, courtesy of designer/plotter *Alex Ross*, writer *Eric Trautmann*, and publisher *Nick Barrucci*.

It's been a while since Dynamite landed Flash Gordon; what led to the delay between announcement and publication? "We have been working on this ever since we first went public with our ***Flash Gordon,***" Barrucci said. "Bringing in *Eric Trautmann*, gelling *Alex Ross's* and Eric's ideas, and coordinating it all with the history of Flash Gordon was paramount. We feel that we're delivering the perfect launch point to out audience. This should excite existing fans as well as bring in new readers—which is also why we announced it as a 32-page comic with 22 pages of story and art, all for only one dollar! We really want to have the greatest fan awareness possible, and allow retailers to take the least risk."

Will this be an original story, or an adaptation of a classic *Alex Raymond* story arc? "It's both," *Alex Ross* said. "The story examines the idea

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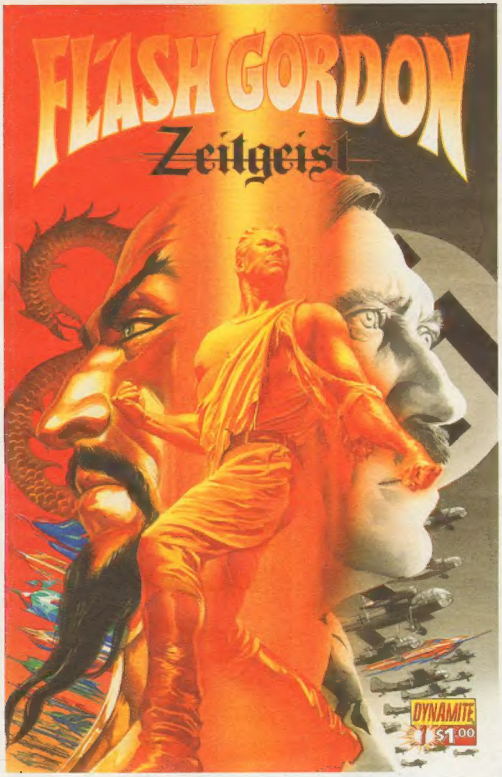

story in this way is that there have been other attempts to modernize Flash that I personally don't think hit the mark for me as a fan. I didn't want to do something cynical, or bloody, or dark and gritty—I get to do a lot of that already—and setting the story in the 1930s really helps, just in terms of portraying un-ironic heroism and altruism."

Trautmann is sticking close to the Raymond source material as far as characters are concerned. "I've made absolutely *no* major changes from *Alex Raymond's* original background for these characters," Trautmann said. "In Raymond's strips, Flash was a 'Yale graduate and world-renowned polo player.' He still is.

"But I *have* made a couple of adjustments to Dale, for example, (who is a cartographer working for the State Department) and extrapolated a bit about Zarkov's areas of speciality (he's an early quantum physics pioneer, as well as a pretty solid engineer, given that he can build—in his basement—a crewed vessel capable of leaving the Earth's atmosphere).

"But yes, my take on the "core" trio of Flash, Dale, and Zarkov should be instantly recognizable to anyone even passingly familiar with the property."

How does Trautmann balance Raymond's affinity for "plot-dense"stories with contemporary tendencies towards decompressed storytelling? "In this case, by putting as much cool stuff on every page as I can. I don't want it to feel decompressed. I want there to be something interesting on every page, even in scenes of necessary exposition. I've altered my captioning style, I've pushed the pace as hard as I can without, I hope, sacrificing narrative clarity. It's just a different idiom and it requires different techniques that hopefully convey a sense of grandeur and speed."

Ross has frequently brought new and innovative designs to classic characters; is he making many changes to *Alex Raymond's* Flash Gordon, or is he sticking with Raymond's designs for the most part? "My 'touch-ups,' if you will, are first based on examining the original designs and aesthetics of Raymond, and then trying to marry that with subtle alterations that would hopefully increase the qualities that make the costumes, vehicles, and people of Mongo might seem authentically alien to our modern sensibilities—and I want to do all that without pushing too far from Raymond's vision."

Flash Gordon has one of the most impressive artistic histories of all time, with *Alex Raymond, Mac Raboy, Al Williamson, Jeff Jones,* and even *Frank Frazetta* offering their versions of the hero at one point or another. How difficult was it to find an artist who could produce work to stand alongside that lineup? "It was very difficult to find the right artist," Barrucci said, "but we were fortunate enough to already have a working relationship with *Daniel Lindro.* Daniel worked with us on ***Sherlock Holmes: Year One***. His artwork was *perfectly* suited for the series; we actually had a debate on whether to have him draw ***Flash Gordon*** or ***Captain Victory***. Ultimately we opted for *Flash Gordon* because his style meshed so well."

In some ways, Flash Gordon is the SF hero archetype; his adventures serve as inspiration for everything from ***Star Trek*** to ***Star Wars***. Is it intimidating in any way to tell new adventures of Flash Gordon, perhaps the most famous SF hero of all time? "My default mode on just about *every* project is to be intimidated!" Trautmann replied. "I mean, look at ***Red Sonja***! I'm following the likes of *Robert E. Howard, Roy Thomas, Barry Windsor-Smith, Frank Thorne, Mike Avon Oeming, Brian Reed, Arvid Nelson, Jen Van Meter,* and so on. It's already daunting. And what about ***Vampirella***? I have to follow the likes of *Forrest Ackerman, Frank Frazetta, Archie Goodwin, Trina Robbins, Alan Moore, Warren Ellis, Grant Morrison, Kurt Busiek, James Robinson...*

"So, yes, the legacy of those who came before is *always* on my mind on a project like this.

"That said, one of the best pieces of advice I ever got when I started writing comics came from my friend, *Greg Rucka*: 'If you're not scaring yourself at least once a day, you're probably doing it wrong.'

"That tension pushes me to what I hope is my best work. Some are easier than others, but I've yet to write something that I thought was effortless. It's always a struggle to get it just right, and to absorb new techniques, new approaches, and so forth.

"I just try to keep in mind how much I loved reading *Al Williamson's* ***Flash Gordon*** work when I was a kid—and hopefully, I can get some of that magic into this book!"

Flash Gordon: Zeitgeist #1, a November release, will be offered with covers by *Alex Ross, Paul Renaud, Francesco Francavilla,* and *Wagner Reis.*

of what happened on Earth at the same time as the human excursion (meaning Flash, Dale, and Zarkov) to Mongo. The whole reason for the subtitle ***Zeitgeist*** is that we examine the reasonability of a Mongo group dispatched to Earth to deal this original invasion timeline—and that creates a potential collusion between the forces of Hitler and Ming the Merciless."

Ross is convinced that the use of a 1930s setting is a key factor in this series. "Most adaptations of ***Flash Gordon*** over the last thirty-some years have updated it for contemporary times. Setting this in its original timeline—which is in itself a unique point in history—is a challenge I wanted us to embrace."

Why does ***Flash Gordon*** work best within the framework of the 1930s rather than in modern times? "I'm not sure he works 'best' in that context," writer *Eric Trautmann* said. "He works best in a period framework in the context of the story we're trying to tell. That's the beauty of these iconic characters: they can be used to tell various stories, with various interpretations, and you'll still recognize them.

"One reason for our decision to tell this

CSNsider

•*Michael Cavna* of ***The Washington Post*** has revealed that *Justin Gray, Jimmy Palmiotti, & Jamal Igle* are introducing a new version of The Ray into DC's New 52 universe beginning in December. The four-part limited series will introduce Lucien Gates, who will become the "human ray of light." This new version of ***The Ray*** is the latest take on a hero whose origins date back to the Golden Age, when the Ray was a part of the Quality Comics line.

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

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•*John Rozum* has announced his departure from DC's New 52 ***Static Shock*** series, which he is co-writing with artist *Scott McDaniel*. "I think Static is a great character with loads of potential, which I hope will get exploited... I maintain a belief that the folks at DC also share a belief that Static has a lot of potential as part of the DCnU, and that they would like the character to remain true to his origins, and established nature... My decision had nothing to do with DC Comics. I've been very happy overall with my time at DC over the roughly 15 years that I've worked for them and I plan to continue working with them into the future. The feeling is mutual. I'm developing new material for them even as I write this. DC Comics is in no way responsible for my decision to leave Static Shock, and have been very supportive of this decision." No word yet on whether McDaniel will serve as sole writer of the series or will be joined by another co-writer.

•There's a comic book wedding coming up in early 2012—and you might be surprised to learn the publisher and the character who'll be involved. The wedding is taking place at Archie Comics' ***Life With Archie: The Married Life #16***, where Kevin Keller (the gay character introduced in *Veronica #202* who has subsequently earned his own miniseries) will be saying his vows. The series, which offers two alternative near-future timelines in each issue (one in which Archie is married to Betty; the other, to Veronica), will find Kevin Keller returning to Riverdale as a war hero, having followed in his father's military footsteps. It's more than just a homecoming, though—it's also Kevin's wedding day, and the whole Riverdale gang turns out for Kevin Keller's wedding as readers discover how Kevin met "Mr. Right." It's not all hearts and flowers, however. Unfortunately, this all occurs during the separation of Archie and Veronica. ***Life With Archie: The Married Life #16*** is slated for mid-January release.

•Many fans lamented the departure of Barbara Gordon from the pages of the ***Birds of Prey*** relaunch; if you're one of them, you might be pleasantly surprised to hear that Babs is making an appearance in ***Birds of Prey #4***—but in her identity of Batgirl, not Oracle. Series writer *Duane Swierczynski* talked with DC's blog ***The Source*** about the shift in tone and the return of a fan-favorite member of the BoP team in a new identity. "One of my favorite thrillers is Ira Levin's ***A Kiss Before Dying***, because right in the middle of the novel...well, the cliche phrase would be, 'Levin pulls the rug right out from under you,' but that doesn't do his legendary plot twist justice," Swierczynski said "Forget the rug being pulled out from under you... when you reach that point in ***Kiss***, it's as

if someone's rolled up that rug and proceeded to use it to beat the living crap out of you. That's what I'm shooting for with this first arc of ***Birds of Prey***. I won't tell you where it is (other than somewhere in issue #4) But If I'm doing my job, you'll be relaxing, enjoying your comic, and then..." So what happens next? You'll find out in December, when ***Birds of Prey #4*** is slated for release.

•DC has added 1-for-200 black and white variant cover editions for December's ***Justice League #4*** (art by *Jim Lee*), ***The Flash #4*** (art by *Francis Manapul*), ***Action Comics #4*** (art by *Rags Morales*), ***Batman #4*** (art by *Greg Capullo*), and ***Green Lantern #4*** (art by *Doug Mahnke*).

•*David Yardin & Gabriel Hernandez Walta* have replaced *Nick Bradshaw* as artist of ***Astonishing X-Men #43***.

•Marvel has cancelled order for the new printing of ***Essential X-Factor TP Vol 2***.

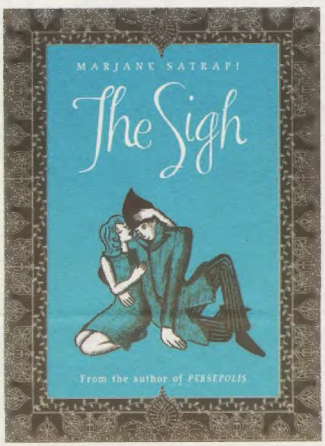
•At long last, we have a tentative release date for *Geoff Johns & Gary Frank's* ***Batman: Earth One*** original graphic novel. The hardcover, which is the first ***Earth One*** release since *J. Michael Straczynski & Shane Davis's* ***Superman: Earth One***, is currently scheduled for May 8th, 2012 release.

•DC ***Showcase Presents*** volumes on the schedule for early 2012 include ***The Spectre Volume 1*** (January), ***Young Love Volume 1*** (February), ***The Losers Volume 1*** (March), and ***All-Star Squadron Volume 1*** (April). Each volume collects approximately 500 pages of Silver and Bronze Age stories for a bargain $19.99 price.

A Sigh Is Just a Sigh

Marjane Satrapi garnered international acclaim for her ***Persepolis*** and ***Persepolis 2***, graphic novels focusing on her childhood in Iran during the Islamic revolution. But English-language readers haven't had a chance to read some of Satrapi's other graphic novels—an oversight that publisher Archaia Press is about to remedy.

In November, Archaia will release ***The Sigh***, an English translation of her 2004 graphic novel. ***The Sigh*** follows Rose, one of three daughters of a rich merchant who always brings gifts for his girls from the market. One day Rose asks for the seed of a blue bean, but her father fails to find one for her. She lets out a sigh in resignation, and her sigh attracts the Sigh, a mysterious being that brings the seed she desired to the merchant. But every debt has to be paid, and every gift has a price, and the Sigh returns a year later to take the merchant's daughter to a secret and distant palace.



"***The Sigh*** is a timeless fairy tale that promises to capture the imaginations of readers both young and old," Archaia's chief creative officer *Mark Smylie* said. "Marjane is one of those rare writers who has the ability to connect with readers on a global scale and we are proud to bring this story to the U.S."

A 56 page 6" x 8" hardcover, ***The Sigh*** features 56 pages of text with hand-drawn color illustrations.

Back to Press

It probably comes as no surprise to anyone that DC is sending back to press all of the 26 titles from the first two weeks of DC's New 52. If you've tried to track these books down, you know that they've been selling out virtually everywhere, and DC actually sold out of hefty overprintings on some of these books more than a week prior to release.

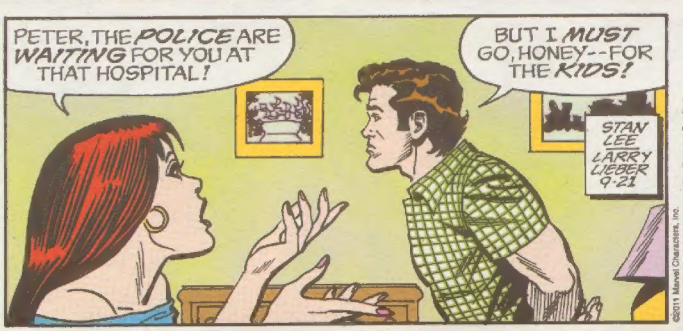
While there has been no announcement at press time regarding week three titles, odds are that most or all of those will return to press as well; look for more info on those titles in next week's *CSN*.

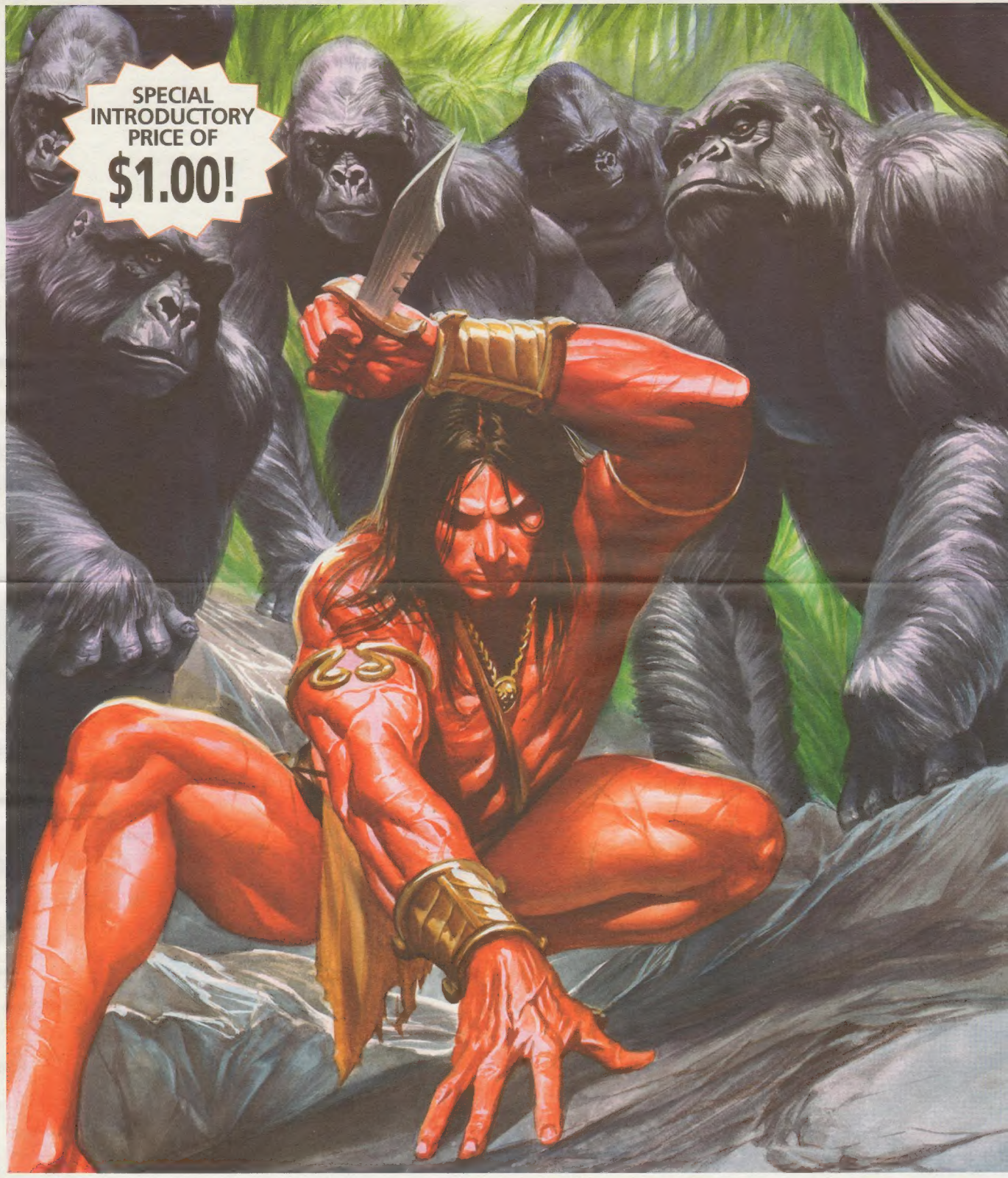
And to make it easy to spot the identify the second printings, DC is reportedly reworking all those covers in shades of crimson!

(Additionally, this week's Back to Press list also includes several Marvel ***Ultimate Comics*** sellouts, as well as ***New Avengers Annual*** and several ***X-Men*** titles.)

•***Action Comics #1 3rd Printing*** (JUL1182355), featuring a recolored version of the cover from the second printing, in stores 10/12.

•***Animal Man #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118203), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/5.

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•***Batgirl #1 3rd Printing*** (JUL118234), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/12.

•***Batman & Robin #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118220), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/12.

•***Batwing #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118204), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/5.

•***Batwoman #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118221)), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/12.

•***Deathstroke #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118222), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/12.

•***Demon Knights #1 2nd Printing*** (JUl118223)), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/12.

•***Detective Comics #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118205), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/5.

•***Frankenstein, Agent of SHADE #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118224), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/12.

•***Green Arrow #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118206), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/5.

•***Green Lantern #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118225), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/12.

•***Grifter #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118226), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/12.

•***Hawk and Dove #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118207), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/5.

•***Justice League #1 Combo Pack #1 3rd Printing*** (JUL118232), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/19.

•***Justice League International #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118208), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/5.

•***Legion Lost #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118227), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/12.

•***Men of War #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118209), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/5.

•***Mister Terrific #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118228), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/12.

•***New Avengers Annual #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118236), featuring a variant cover by *Gabrielle Dell'Otto*, in stores 10/19.

•***OMAC #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118210), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/5.

•***Red Lanterns #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118216), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/5.

•***Resurrection Man #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118229), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/12.

•***Static Shock #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118211), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/5.

•***Stormwatch #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118212), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/5.

•***Suicide Squad #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118230), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/12.

•***Superboy #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118231), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/12.

•***Swamp Thing #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL118213), , featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 10/5.

•***Thunderbolts #163 2nd Printing*** (JUL118241), featuring a variant cover by *Kev Walker*, in stores 10/19.

•***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #2 2nd Printing*** ((JUL118188), featuring a variant cover by *Kaare Andrews*, in stores 10/19.

•***Ultimate Comics Ultimates #2 2nd Printing*** (JUL118187), featuring a variant cover by *Esad Ribic*, in stores 10/19.

•***Uncanny X-Force #15 2nd Printing*** (JUL118246), featuring a variant cover by *Jerome Opena*, in stores 10/19.

•***X-Men #17 2nd Printing*** (JUL118238), featuring a variant cover by *Jorge Molina*, in stores 10/19.

•***X-Men: Schism #2 2nd Printing*** (JUL118237), featuring a variant cover by *Frank Cho*, in stores 10/19.

Tucci Has Faith In His Next Project

Billy Tucci first made his reputation with his martial arts heroine ***Shi***. Mor recently, he immersed himself in WWII history as he did research for his acclaimed ***Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion*** limited series. Later this year, though, he turns away from martial arts and warfare to present a comic book version of one of the most inspirational and best-known stories ever: the birth of Jesus Christ.

A Child Is Born, appropriately scheduled for December release from Apostle Arts, is the result of years of meticulous research. "To have the opportunity to tell the Nativity story in comic book form has always been the dream project for me, but what really motivated me to finally answer the calling was my wife's year-and-a-half struggle with breast cancer. She has endured so much with three major surgeries, an aggressive chemotherapy regimen, and now all the follow-up medication," Tucci told Newsarama.com's *Vaneta Rogers*.

"Even though it was the hardest eighteen months of our lives, a lot of good came out of it. We've found a greater appreciation for family, friends and life in general. It's a scare that makes you put your priorities in order and to follow your heart. For over a decade, Deborah has lived with my passion to bring ***A Child Is Born*** to fruition. When this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity came about, she told me to 'go for it!'

"This project has been pulling me for so long, telling me that I can do it, telling me it will be important to so many people on so many levels. So that said, I was, and still am, incredibly intimidated by the whole thing. But then again, it all comes down to faith. I am a Christian, and I know in my heart that I am the one to do this, and that my love for ***A Child Is Born*** will show on every page."

Tucci explained that his research for ***A Child Is Born*** "literally started and ended with the Bible, primarily the books of Matthew and Luke. But I've also researched many writings by experts on the Nativity Narratives. I became a stickler to detail on just how an ancient Israelite would wear their hair and clothing, what the homes in Jerusalem and Nazareth would look like 2,000 years ago, how an olive tree grows — even what type of pottery would be in Bethlehem. I'm approaching it as not just a spiritual document, but a historical one as well.

"Many people don't realize how much of the 'commercial Christmas' is just plain wrong – for instance, when the Magi finally found the baby Jesus, he wasn't in a manger or cave, but rather a house. This was months after his birth. I wanted to be specific and explain just how the Magi came to know of Jesus' birth, and what exactly the "Star of Bethlehem" was."

Tucci explained that ***A Child is Born*** will be presented as a 32-page book with "25 pages of fully colored story and art... We're using the best quality cover and interior paper stock for a great first impression. I feel this is the perfect Christmas present from a comics fan to a friend who might never purchase one, or a family member who thinks comics are nothing more than silly 'funny books.'"

Tucci confirmed that he and Apostle Arts are already looking ahead to their next project, a comic book version of the Easter story, and another Christmas-related project is under discussion.

A Child Is Born is scheduled for early December release.

ISSUE 1
$3.50

Coming Comics— Image in December

The evolution of global warfare leads to the creation of a new breed of special forces: the Intelligence Support Activity, or Gray Fox. Meet Gray Fox's most elite agents, Team Omaha, in ***The Activity #1*** by *Nathan Edmondson & Mitch Gerads*.

The Gladstone's Cadets get an Extreme Supervillain Makeover as they venture deep into the heart of enemy territory in ***Gladstone's School for World Conquerors #8*** by *Mark Andrew Smith & Armand Villavert*.

The holidays are approaching—and that means it's time for a new Jingle Belle tale from *Paul Dini & Stephanie Gladden*. ***Jingle Belle: Gift Wrapped*** combines the 2011 Harvey-nominated story "Grounded" with six pages of new content.

Tito Faraci & Dan Brereton take readers back to the time of Caesar in ***The Last Battle***, a oneshot that pits Caesar's chosen warrior

Caius Rodius against the rebel Cammius, who once fought for Rome, where he was trained by the very same Rodius now assigned to bring him down.

Michael Allred celebrates two decades of Madness with the ***Madman 20th Anniversary Monster! HC,*** a 264-page oversized 11" x 17" volume featuring contributions from some of the medium's biggest names, including *Peter Bagge, Kyle Baker, Philip Bond, Darwyn Cooke, Dave Cooper, Frank Frazetta, Dean Haspiel, Los Bros Hernandez, Jack Kirby, Teddy Kristiansen, Joe Kubert, Eric Larsen, David Mack, Pat McKeown, Frank Miller, Peter Milligan, Bernie Mireault, Moebius, Michael Avon Oeming, Paul Pope, Eric Powell, Joe Quinones, Frank Quitely, Steven T. Seagle, Jeff Smith, Jay Stephens, Dave Stevens, Craig Thompson, Alex Toth, Matt Wagner, Maris Wicks,* and (of course) *Michael Allred*. The book includes a mix of new stories and a heaping helping of Madman illustrations.

Doug Tennapel's web comic satire of comics, politics, philosophy, and more is collected in the ***Ratfist TP.***

Robert Kirkman & Jason Howard join forces for Image's first coloring book—the ***Super Dinosaur Deluxe Coloring Book!***

The Walking Dead: Rise of the Governor Novel—Deluxe Slipcased Edition is a limited hardcover package of the original novel by *Robert Kirkman & Jay Bonansinga.*

You wake up in a bathtub of ice with a surgical incision on your side… but the hospital says you've still got two kidneys! Where do you go for a second opinion? Where else but Dr. Vincent Morrow, the Witch Doctor! *Brandon Seifert & Lukas Ketner* are ready to keep you in stitches in ***Witch Doctor: The Resuscitation.***

Image collected editions include:

- ***The Art of Carbon Grey HC,*** spotlighting the work of *Hoang Nguyen, Khari Evans, & Kinsun Loh.*
- ***Chew Omnivore Edition Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Chew #s 11-20.***
- ***The Infinite Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***The Infinite #s 1-4*** by *Robert Kirkman & Rob Liefeld.*
- ***The Li'l Depressed Boy Volume 0 TP,*** featuring work by *S. Steven Struble, Sam Kieth, Jim Mahfood, Jim Valentino, & Sina Grace.*
- ***Officer Downe: Bigger, Better, Bastard Edition HC,*** an oversized hardcover with bonus features.
- ***The Red Wing TP,*** collecting ***The Red Wing #s 1-4.***
- ***Sam and Twitch: The Complete Collection Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Sam and Twitch #s 14-26,*** featuring work by *Brian Bendis, Todd McFarlane, Paul Lee, Alex Maleev, Angel Medina, Clayton Crain, Jonathan Glapion,* and *Ashley Wood.*
- ***Screamland: Death of the Party TP,*** collecting ***Screamland #s 1-5.***
- ***Shinku Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Shinku #s 1-5.***
- ***Spawn: Origins Book Five HC,*** collecting ***Spawn #s 51-62.***
- ***Spawn: Origins Volume 13 TP,*** collecting ***Spawn #s 75-80.***
- ***Tales From Beyond Science HC,*** featuring the series by writers *Mark Millar, Alan McKenzie,* and *John Smith,* all illustrated by *Rian Hughes.*
- ***The Walking Dead Volume 15: We Find Ourselves TP,*** collecting ***The Walking Dead #s 85-90.***
- ***The Walking Dead Omnibus Volume 2 HC,*** a new edition of the deluxe slipcased hardcover collecting ***The Walking Dead #s 24-48.***
- ***Witch Doctor Volume 1: Under the Knife TP,*** collecting ***The Witch Doctor #s 1-4.***

Coming Comics—Dynamite in December

Tarzan returns to comics in December in Dynamite's ***Lord of the Jungle #1,*** an uncensored retelling of *Edgar Rice Burroughs'* ***Tarzan of the Apes*** that expands on the story with new elements. Dynamite is so enthusiastic about this series by *Arvid Nelson & Roberto Castro* that they're offering the first issue for only $1. And forget about those "sneak peek" issues that offer very little comics material—Dynamite's ***Lord of the Jungle #1*** is a full-length comic book, no filler! (Don't miss next week's *CSN* cover feature on this high-profile relaunch of one of popular fiction's most iconic characters!)

The career of legendary creator *Howard Chaykin* in celebrated in ***The Art of Howard Chaykin,*** a collection of artwork from Chaykin's career (including many never-before-published pieces from his own archives), supplemented with Chaykin commentary and no-holds-barred perspectives from his friends and colleagues.

Flash Gordon, Dale Arden and Dr. Hans Zarkov come face-to-face with Ming the Merciless in ***Flash Gordon: Zeitgeist #2*** by *Eric Trautmann & Daniel Lindro.*

As Britt Reid fights to live up to the legacy of The Green Hornet, will he ruin his father's other legacy as a newspaperman? Find out in ***Green Hornet Annual #2*** by *Mark Rahner & Roann Cliquet.*

As if it hasn't been brutal enough already, ***Jennifer Blood #10*** is touted as "the all violence issue." How much violence can you cram into one standard-length comic, anyway?...

Five hundred years in the future the government monitors everything—including your mind. Everyone on earth has been infected with a nano-tech virus that allows a central computer known as the Omnimind, to tap into and analyze people's thoughts. The result: no crime... until a violent murder proves that the future isn't as safe as it seems. Searching for answers, a group of rebels have engineered the ultimate weapon: a genetically altered child, born immune to the virus. With the ability to act undetected, he's the only one on the planet that can elude the elaborate apparatus of the suffocating Omnimind. See how his existence changes everything in ***Nowhere Man #1*** by *Marc Guggenheim & Jeevan J. Kang.*

America has fallen into a landscape of revolution and chaos and OCP has taken over Old Detroit from the authorities in a political coup. It's up to Robocop and what's left of the Old Detroit Police Department to try and make it out of the state in order to get help from the US military in ***Robocop: Road Trip #1*** by *Rob Williams & Unai.*

Pepe Caldels, Ferran Toro, & Vincente Cifuentes poke fun at sparkly vampires and werewolf romance in ***Twilighting: A Graphic Parody.***

Brandon Jerwa & Eman Casallos introduce a Kansas cult that worships Vampirella in ***Vampirella Annual #1...*** but what do they do when the object of their adoration comes to town looking for answers?

Ultimate victory has never been closer for the Voltron Force. King Zarkon's brutal regime has been pushed to the edges of the galaxy, left to wage a series of desperate and losing battles to claim innocent victims while they still can. But Zarkon knows something ---a secret about Voltron over a hundred years old that could change everything for the Galaxy Alliance. ***Voltron #1*** by *Brandon Thomas & Ariel Padilla* isn't the Voltron we all know, but one redefined and re-imagined by those he and his adventures have inspired over the years. This is Generation Voltron...

Dynamite collected editions include:

- ***Hack/Slash & Eva: Monster's Ball TP,*** collecting the four-issue miniseries.
- ***Seven Brothers Omnibus Collection,*** a 280-page compilation of the series by *John Woo, Garth Ennis, Ben Raab, Deric Hughes, Jeevan Kang, & Edison George.*
- ***Vampi Omnibus Volume 1 TP,*** a massive oversized collection spotlighting *David Conway & Kevin Lau's* manga-fication from ***Vampirella Manga 2099 #s 1-18*** and ***Vampi #1/2.***
- ***Vampirella #1 1969 Commemorative Gold Foil Edition,*** a facsimile reprint of the original 1969 magazine, with added gold foil logo.

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